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STORMING BACK…

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Berrien County Health Department Highlights Screening Services During Cervical Health Awareness Month

In recognition of Cervical Health Awareness Month, the Berrien County Health Department is highlighting its cervical cancer screening services.

BCHD's Sexual Health Clinic offers accessible, nonjudgmental and supportive services to community members through in-person and telehealth appointments. Clinic services include pelvic exams, pap smears and screenings for high-risk human papillomavirus, or HPV, to monitor cervical health and detect early signs of cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer often shows no symptoms in its early stages, making regular screenings and vaccinations essential to long-term health, BCHD Nurse Practitioner Jennifer Parrette said. It is recommended cervical cancer screenings begin at age 21.

"Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer when detected early," Parrette said. "By taking proactive steps, such as getting a pap smear, getting tested for HPV or getting the HPV vaccine, community members can significantly reduce their risk of cervical cancer.

"Our goal is to make it easier for people to access the care and screenings they need. We want everyone to feel comfortable coming to us for these important preventive services."

BCHD's Sexual Health Clinic offers HPV vaccinations that protect against nine types of HPV. The HPV vaccine is recommended for both males and females beginning at age 9 to ensure the highest level of protection.

In addition to cervical health services, the Sexual Health Clinic provides contraceptive services along with education, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. These services help promote overall sexual wellness.

BCHD services are typically offered at lower rates than many local health care providers, and most major insurance plans are accepted. Individuals who do not have health insurance can access breast and cervical cancer screening services through the Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Navigation Program.

Clinic appointments are available 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at BCHD's Benton Harbor office, 2149 E. Napier Ave., and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at its Niles office, 1205 N. Front St. Walk-in services are available 1-4 p.m. Wednesday at both locations. Telehealth appointments are available 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

Community members may request an appointment online or by calling 269-926-7121.

For more information about BCHD's Sexual Health Clinic and its services, visit www.bchdsexualhealthclinic or call 269-926-7121. — **STAFF REPORTS**

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Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Chikaming Township Board approves special STR meeting

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A special meeting of the Chikaming Township Board regarding short-term rentals has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 5.

At the township board's Thursday, Jan. 8, meeting, police chief Todd Taylor, who sits on the nine-member STR Committee, said that the committee has met several times over the last several weeks, during which they've "pored over tons of data," did a lot of research and held "robust conversations."

The plan was to present Chikaming Township Supervisor David Bunte with a couple of recommendations that have been voted on by the committee this Thursday, which will be typed up in a report.

Bunte said the purpose of the special meeting will be to review the recommendations and discuss next steps.

The township has extended its moratorium on new STR licenses, which will expire Feb. 9. During this period, only properties with valid or pending 2025 licenses prior to Oct. 9, 2025, will be allowed to renew for a 2026 license.

Bunte said they "knew the timing on this was going to be challenging," adding that they were concerned about having to continue to extend the moratorium.

Any recommendations that are ordinance related that the board would vote to proceed with would require a 30-day publication, "so that notice would put us into early March."

Board members approved parks director Joe Martin pursuing a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport Grant to pursue the Harbert Community Park Band Shelter Pavillion Project.

Martin said that this will be the third year of the park's concert series.

Phase One of the park improvements included the stage area and a portion of the ADA compliant walkway. Phase Two included restrooms, which have been installed, the landscaping, planting the trees and the configuration and completion of the ADA compliant walkway.

Martin added that the bands play on the concrete platform but "with no shelter, no pavilion, no coverage" from the sun or any kind of inclement weather.

He said they've put up 10-foot-by-10-foot tents; however, it looked "shoddy." Once, a tent had to be taken down because it blew away.

"What I want to do is have a park that is conducive to and exemplifies what really the park has become," he said.

Martin said he was seeking grant funding for the pavilion, which would be $93,075, that would be "in sync and conform to the existing design" at the park, such as the Sandburg Historical Pavillion.

He received two bids from Sinclair and was recommending that they go with the second one, which is a larger structure that also provides a cantilever roof line for even more coverage.

Trustee Arthur Anderson, who was the lone board member who voted "nay" on the grant application, said they'd be spending what seems like an "enormous amount of money for three concerts."

Martin said there're many opportunities "beyond three concerts per year" and that the pavilion could attract high-caliber bands.

Anderson said he'd prefer that they have a program in place and then pursued getting the bandshell.

"If we had a successful program, I'd be more inclined to support it," he said.

Board members approved Bunte as township representative to the Initial Board Position of the Chamber Growth Alliance, which consists of Chikaming Township, New Buffalo City, New Buffalo Township and Three Oaks Township, with the assistance of the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber.

Bunte said the board will be meeting in late January, where they'll receive a reduced list of candidates to interview for the CGA's economic development position.

Board members approved tabling the proposal from Abonmarche regarding public access at Pier Street Beach until next month.

The proposal includes topographic and boundary survey, drainage design, preliminary design, shoreline improvements and protection, preliminary shore access and overlook design, pre application meeting with permit processing, final drainage design, final design of shoreline improvements and protection, shore access and overlook design and then construction administration.

Bunte said that the proposal is regarding the initial preliminary engineering and doesn't include actual construction work.

Board members approved signing and approving the Chikaming Township 2026-2027 Tax Agreement from Berrien County Information Systems.

Trying to make a feature film yourself with no money is the best film school you can do. — *Quentin Tarantino*

HIKERS TO OBSERVE 'ANIMAL SIGNS' AT JANUARY HIKE

Hikers will explore Chris Thompson Memorial Preserve at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, for an "Animal Signs' hike.

Winter is the perfect time to observe the activity of our forest friends by searching for animal scat and tracks, feeding signs, among other things. By far, the easiest way to track animals is through snow which is much harder to predict these days in Southwest Michigan. So, the plan this year is to schedule a "Flash Hike" three days out when there's snow and plenty of tracks on the ground. In the meantime, Pat Fisher, president of HCH, will lead the Harbor Country Hikers and friends on a reasonably easy trail and discuss Animal Signs to look for with or without snow.

HCH has an All-Terrain Rollator which may be reserved for use on our hikes. Reservations are made on a first-come first-served basis by filling out the brief form at https://harborcountryhikers.org/rollator.

The Memorial Preserve is a mix of abandoned agricultural field, floodplain forest, and frontage on the Galien River. Chikaming Open Lands plans to maintain the high-quality forest along the river, allow the forest to extend out into the field through a process called succession, and improve the mesic prairie, a historically common but now rare ecosystem.

For more information, including driving directions, visit the Hikers' website, www.harborcountryhikers.org, or its Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

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SCHOLASTICS

School board approves entering contract negotiations with Bison Preserve developer

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education approved going into contract negotiations with Leeward Ventures for the PUD, the Bison Preserve, at their Monday, Jan. 12, meeting.

Board members had approved the release of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to the public for the purpose of seeking private investors/developers to partner with New Buffalo Area Schools in the development of property located at 12332 Lubke Road.

Last November, board members heard from three private investors/developers: Brian Papke of Leeward Ventures, Zack Zalar of The Habitat Company and Dan Buckenmeyer from The Southwest Southwest Michigan Community Land Trust.

After interviews and receiving documents, Bowen said the board felt they needed more time and questions answered.

Board President Denise Churchill said that she felt the Grand Rapids-based Leeward Ventures had the "strongest" responses.

"I feel like they suit the model of what we're looking for most," she said.

Trustee Lisa Werner said that it's important to maintain the "integrity" of the property.

"I do feel like Leeward has done some things that are similar to what we're looking for and are more likely to be in line with what we want," she said.

Superintendent Adam Bowen said that the development is a "huge, huge thing."

"I applaud the board for taking a step back – obviously, we wanted to move forward with this but also we understand how important this is to our community and a lot at stake here," he said.

The project began due to allowing the building Trades program to have more property to build on. Having an option for more affordable housing in New Buffalo is also a goal.

Board members elected the following members to the following positions: Denise Churchhill, president; Stephen Donnelly, vice president; John Haskins, treasurer and Vanessa Thun, secretary.

Board members heard an update on the Radio Program from class instructor and manager Jonny Reinhardt.

Recent projects have included Pecha Kucha, which Reinhardt said is Japanese for "chit chat, short and sweet," and that he uses it as a way for students to get to know each other in 10 lines or less.

Three new computers have replaced aged ones, and he said they're working on setting up a new automation system. Other old equipment may be repainted, upgraded or replaced. Reinhardt said this will be done with the help of contacts with the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, of which WNBI is a member, as well as Midwest Family Marketing and Media, broadcast and audio engineers and Niles-based Theory One Productions.

Class sizes have continued to increase, with last trimester having 21 students and this one about 16.

Reinhardt said students have been "crafting content to include people outside of the classroom." Recently, they interviewed New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit on the future Veterans Park.

In the future, Reinhardt plans to seek out ways to collaborate with other school districts that have broadcast CTE programs across the county and state and to take field trips to the Museum of Broadcast Communications and television and radio stations in the region.

Board members approved the erate bid from MOSS for access point upgrades. Bowen said that, since they've upgraded the fiber lines to the closets, they have new switches that are 10 gig speed. He said it's anticipated they will upgrade every access point in the district over spring break.

Board members approved the Services Agreement with Chikaming Open Lands (COL), of New Buffalo Area Schools property on Lubke Road within the New Buffalo Elementary School Prairie East and West Nature Study Trails Project Areas. Over a year ago, the district received a $13,500 Upton Foundation Grant, which was matched by The Pokagon Fund, for the ongoing process to "enhance the wetlands area and preserve it," Bowen said. Half the grant went toward biological studies on the plants and trees, and the Services Agreement with COL is part of the next phase.

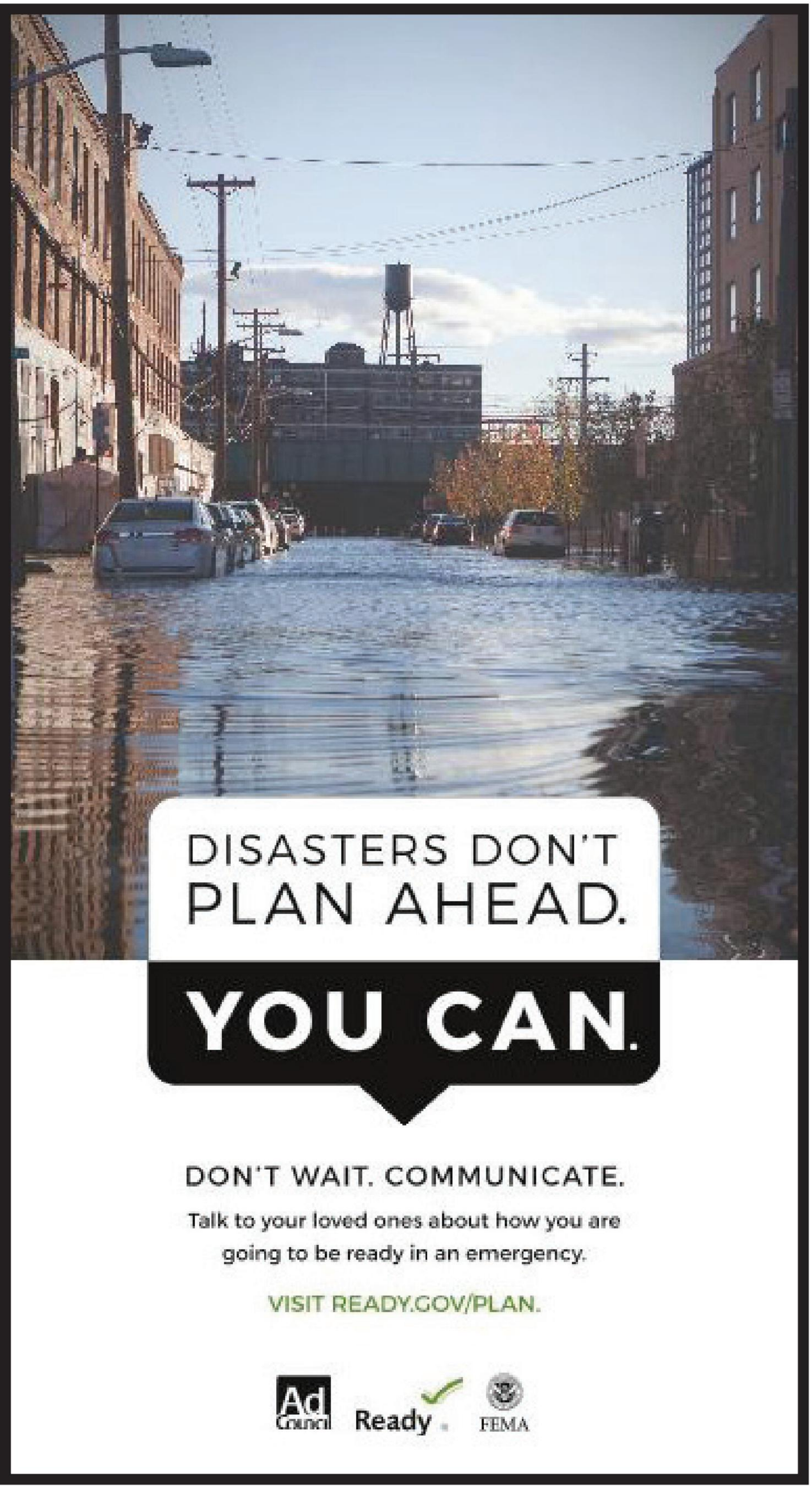
Board members approved the addition of cameras to five buses.

Transportation Director Tom Whitsel said REI put a camera on the newest bus, which, when it pulls in, hooks right to the new internet. The camera uploads any video it has anytime the bus passes through an open Wi-Fi, so he can "look what's going on in the bus all the time."

Cameras are alternating across the bus and face down in each direction, and there's also a forward-facing camera off the front and rear of the bus. Since the buses have a data connection with tablets the district has with Bus Rite, Whitsel said that he can see what happened during an incident before he leaves his office.

Board members approved the New Buffalo Area Schools Storm Water Management Plan.

The New Buffalo Area Recreation Authority 2026 Annual Contribution Invoice in the amount of $5,000 was approved.



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TOWN HALL MEETING

Topics of Discussion:
Crime, Cars and Cannabis

January 27, 2026
STARTS AT 6pm

"We want to hear what you think!" Lt Thad Chartrand of the Berrien County Sheriffs Office invites all community members to attend a townhall meeting to share input on hot topics in and around New Buffalo Township. Members of the New Buffalo Township board along with Code Enforcement will be in attendance to address your questions and concerns. "Your perspectives, questions, comments and feedback are vital in allowing us to have an open conversation. For more information, Call 269-469-1011

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Museum receives financial boost toward historic building renovations

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A building that has been abandoned since the 1980s in Three Oaks is about to become something a whole lot more thanks to a major grant from the Berrien Community Foundation.

Officials from BCF presented a $11,000 check to The Region of Three Oaks Museum (TROTOM) that's aimed at renovations of the historic building at 7 South Elm Street Wednesday, Jan. 7.

Per a press release, the museum plans to restore the 1933 building to its original Art Deco look and house exhibits relating to the Warrens and the Featherbone Company, which was the economic lifeblood of the community from the1880s through the first half of the 20th century.

The museum has launched a capital campaign to fund this project, and the public has responded generously. Work should begin in the next several weeks.

The grant will aid the museum in making the building more ADA compliant, BCF Program Director Susan Matheny said.

"We're thrilled to help with the preservation of historical buildings and historical items in our community - we know that remembering our past is the best way to be successful in our future," she said.

TROTOM Board President Randy Miller said that Viki Gudas and TROTOM Board Vice President Nick Bogert sought out help for funding.

"We realized we have a 93-year-old boiler and 93-year-old electricity, so we started looking for grants," he said.

The building once housed offices overseeing the vast agricultural operations of the Warren family of Three Oaks. The family owned thousands of acres of land in Southwest Michigan and hundreds of thousands of acres of ranch land in

Museum officials pose with the check with Susan Matheny

Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and even Mexico. By one account, the Warrens were the fifth-biggest landowners in the United States.

Bogert said that E.K. Warren, who invented featherbone and had the home office of the Warren Featherbone Company in what's now Three Oaks Township Library, "made a whole lot of dough;" however, his son, Charles, wanted to get into farming and ranching.

"So, he convinced his father to buy ranch land first in Texas and then New Mexico and then Mexico," he said.

Matheny said that museums such as TROTOM say a lot about the community.

"I think local museums are such a treasure and a gift to have in a community and it shows that you're a community that's truly arrived when you can spend time and effort doing these types of projects in addition to everything else that needs to be done to take care a community," she said.

The Region of Three Oaks Museum is a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of local history. The museum, located at 5 Featherbone Avenue in Three Oaks, is currently closed while new exhibits are being assembled. It will re-open in the first weekend in May.

Raiders lose to Bridgman in close game

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders rallied back from an eight-point deficit but lost 35-30 to Bridgman at home Tuesday in girls' high school basketball.

Raiders Head Coach Jason Alexander said the outcome could have been different, but his players didn't seem fully ready to play against their rivals.

"They wanted it more than we did and they got it," he said.

The Raiders ahead by two points at the end of the first quarter spent much of the second period exchanging leads with Bridgman.

The Raiders took a one-point lead into halftime, though, when Emma Seifert drove in for a lay-up not long after Harper Bowman off a pass from Addison Lynch made a short bucket.

In the third period, the Bees scored the first nine points before the Raiders made a free throw with less than a minute to go in the quarter.

The quarter ended when the Raiders cut the lead to five points on a three-point shot along the baseline from Peyton Swain at the buzzer.

The Raiders evened the score early in the fourth quarter when Addison Lynch after stealing the ball near the half court line drove in for a lay-up and later hit a free throw.

The Bees went back up by six points but the Raiders after cutting the lead to three points couldn't get any closer.

Another three-point shot from Swain narrowed the lead to four points with 17 seconds left in the game.

Swain led the Raiders with 11 points.

Lynch added seven points while Seifert finished with six points.

Alexander gave credit to Bridgman for playing a solid game, especially on defense, but feels his players also beat themselves by allowing too many offensive rebounds and lack of execution in areas like passing.

"It just wasn't our night tonight. We'll be a little better next time out. Hopefully," he said.

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Good, Better, Best.

The story of the Chicago Bears season. There are eight teams remaining with a chance to win the Super Bowl. The only three that are holdovers from last year are the Bills, Rams, and Texans if they beat the Steelers on Monday night. Both Super Bowl participants (the Chiefs and the Eagles) are out of the playoffs, as are the Lions, Commanders, and Ravens. The eight remaining participants, including the Chicago Bears, and their fans all feel like this could be their year.

What a difference a year makes. Last year at this time Bears fans were as disgruntled as they've ever been. A really bad team was getting worse and the end of bad football was nowhere to be found. The team was quite honestly a laughingstock.

Finally the ownership, led by George McCaskey, made the single best move the franchise had made in decades. They hired a coach who's fiery personality was unlike any Bears coach since Mike Ditka and who was smarter than any Bear Coach, ever.

The first playoff game, against the Green Bay Packers, started off poorly for the Bears. Coach Johnson seemed uncharacteristically aggressive, going for a first down twice on fourth down in their own territory. By halftime the Packers were leading 21-3, and even though we've seen the team come back often this year, it looked like it was all over but the shouting. The third quarter was a lot better, but the Bears were only able to put three points on the scoreboard so they entered the fourth quarter still down 21-6.

The fourth quarter started with a field goal, cutting the deficit to 12 points, and with ten minute's remaining, Andre Swift scored on a six yard run and the Bears only trailed by five.

The Packers fought back and scored a touchdown with about six minutes remaining, but missed the extra point, making their lead eleven. With four minutes left, Zaccheaus caught a eight yard touchdown pass to cut the lead to three.

Then, with just 1:43 remaining on the clock, D.J. Moore caught a twenty five yard touchdown pass to give the Bears a 31-27 lead. The Packers were only able to advance the ball to the Bears twenty eight before time ran out and Bears fans across the nation began celebrating a most unlikely but joyous victory.

Much of Chicago, Bears fans or not, were walking with a bit of a swagger today as they rejoiced knocking off the hated Packers. Next up are the Los Angeles Rams, who are slightly favored to beat the Bears even though the weather forecast is calling for temperatures in the teens.

An under the radar move happened in baseball in the midst of the NFL playoffs. The Cubs signed Alex Bregman to a five year, 175 million dollar contract. It appears as if the Cubs want to knock the Brewers down a peg or two in their division.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

It's a family is what it is. *— George Christie*

Door opens for golf course to become subdivision

BY STAN MADDUX

The door has opened for a La Porte golf course to be converted into a new housing development.

The La Porte City Council on Jan. 5 voted unanimously in favor of the developer's request to amend the current residential zoning at the soon to be former Briar Leaf Golf Club on Indiana 39 just south of the Indiana Toll Road.

The zoning change allows the developer, Lennar Homes of Indiana, to keep moving forward on plans to build close to 300 single family homes at the 18-hole golf course on lots ranging from 45 to 60 feet wide.

Lot sizes under the former zoning had to be at least 100 feet in width.

Density seemed to be the major concern of nearby residents like Gary Metcalf, who spoke up about the project.

"I'm not against it. I'm just against that you're stacking too many people into one little area too tight," said

A number of residents would like the property to remain as it is, saying they moved to the neighborhood mainly because of the golf course.

Attorney Dave Ambers, who represents a homeowner close to the proposed development, suggested no decision be made by the council until after the zoning change request was further reviewed.

Ambers said much smaller lots would harm the character of existing homes on and around the golf course with lots up to 200 feet in width.

"I wish you would table this for a month or two and analyze is this something we really want," he said.

La Porte area resident Ethan Koontz said the density of the homes will increase the amount of storm water not soaking into the ground, which could impact a wetland area beside the golf course.

City Councilwoman Lauren Huffman based on her experience as a commercial developer said there will be studies of the wetlands and involvement by the state, if necessary, to safeguard the natural resource.

"There's a lot of reviews. It takes a lot of time to make sure that we're putting back in what we're getting out of it," she said.

Bert Cook, Executive Director of the La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership, said smaller lot sizes are what a lot of prospective home buyers prefer nowadays.

He said the smaller lots also increase the number of homes that can go up at the golf course, allowing the developer to profit more and pay the entire cost of new streets and other infrastructure without seeking financial help from the city.

Cook also said it would be the largest new subdivision in recent memory in La Porte and make a noticeable dent in the ongoing effort to modernize the city's aging housing stock.

He also pointed out Lennar Homes, which has an office in the Chicago area, is one of the largest housing developers in the nation.

The price of the homes is expected to range from $350,000 to $450,000 depending largely on size.

"We have a high level of confidence that this will be successful. It will provide a new housing product that we don't currently have," he said.

Cook said the current property owners notified the city the golf course due to financial challenges the past several years will be closing for good before the next season.

He said attempts to find a buyer who would keep the property as a golf course had failed before the housing developer emerged as a potential buyer.

Cook said the pending sale can now move toward closing since the zoning change opened the door for the project.

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La Lumiere storms back after first loss in basketball

BY STAN MADDUX

La Lumiere suffered its first loss of the basketball season in a nationally televised game during the fifth annual La Porte Invitational at the historic Civic Auditorium.

The Lakers rebounded by winning their final two games of the three-day competition featuring some of the best college prep teams and talent in the nation.

La Lumiere opened the competition on Jan. 9 with a 67-60 loss to Long Island Lutheran in a game televised by FOX Sports 1.

The Lakers defeated CATS Academy 81-62 the next evening.

Junior Devin Cleveland, a transfer student from Chicago, led the way for the Lakers with 18 points while Ferlandes Wright, a junior from Louisville, added 17 points and nine rebounds.

Jonathan Sanderson, who signed to play next season at the University of Notre Dame, contributed 15 points, nine rebounds and eight assists.

La Lumiere on Sunday beat Sunrise Christian Academy 68-49.

A 13-2 run for the Lakers during the second half was the difference maker in the game.

Senior Jacob Webber, who's committed to play at Purdue University next season, finished with 24 points that included six three-point buckets out of eight attempts.

Wright and Cleveland added 16 and 15 points apiece.

Head Coach Pat Holmes credited more effective ball movement and passing to open shooters for the two victories.

"I was proud of how our guys responded. For us to be at our best, we have to distribute the ball. In both wins we had 22 and 19 assists, respectively," he said.

Organizers of the event seemed very pleased with attendance and, overall, how things worked out.

Tom Izzo, the legendary head coach of the men's basketball team at Michigan State University and former NBA star Rasheed Wallace were among the celebrities in attendance Friday night at the Civic Auditorium.

Wallace was there as associate head coach of the Tennessee Collegiate Academy, one of the 12 teams which competed in the invitational.

Izzo was scouting the talent.

Jack Arnett, Executive Director of the La Porte County Convention and Visitors Bureau, said Izzo sat behind the steering wheel on the 1939 Chevy school bus used in the basketball movie "Hoosiers" outside the facility.

Arnett said Izzo also took a moment to sign autographs.

"I went and congratulated him for being so friendly," he said.

La Porte Park Department Superintendent Mark Schreiber said nearly all of the seats were filled at times but attendance was down a bit while the Indiana Hoosiers played Friday night in the college football playoffs and the Chicago Bears played Saturday night in the NFL playoffs.

"We had really good strong early attendance and steady throughout the day, so, I think we're overall pretty happy with it," he said.

A hurricane and Hoosier in one family

BY STAN MADDUX

A man and his grandson from :a Porte played for the same schools vying for this year's college football national championship.

Bob Strieter was a star lineman on offense and defense for the University of Miami Hurricanes in the early 60's before playing one season in the Canadian Football League.

Owen Strieter played two seasons at Indiana University beginning in 2017 where he was a safety and member of the special teams.

A dislocated shoulder and receiving just limited playing time were among the reasons he cited for not continuing on with the team to focus strictly on his studies during his final two years of eligibility.

Strieter said he's not sure if he and his grandfather will watch the game together but, if not, he expects them to call and text message each other periodically during the January 19 match-up.

"Hopefully, we'll get the win despite what my grandpa would say," he said.

Surprisingly, perhaps, the elder Strieter believes his alma mater might not have much of a chance because of how dominant the Hoosiers have been especially with blow out post season victories over Alabama and Oregon.

Regardless, he'll be rooting for the Hurricanes.

"I have to do that. That's where I got my education and chance to play professional," he said.

Strieter said the Hoosiers were 5-7 each year he was on the team, a typical season for a program that has the most losses in college football history.

He said it's still hard to believe the program entered the tournament with the No. 1 ranking and its quarterback, Fernando Mendoza, became the first Heisman Trophy winner in I.U. history.

Strieter said he wonders if any other head coach has ever turned around a college football program so quickly and drastically.

"What Curt Cignetti has been able to do has been pretty insane," he said.

Strieter is now a construction teacher and volunteer football coach at :a Porte High School.

The elder Strieter also became a teacher in :a Porte after his playing days were over and later was head coach of the high school football team for eight years.

Strieter said one of the highlights of being on the I.U. football team was intercepting a pass from teammate, Michael Penix, Jr., during a spring scrimmage game.

Penix is now the starting quarterback of the Atlanta Falcons.

"Pretty cool. Pretty fond memories. I enjoyed my time down there for sure," he said.

Bison rally but fall just short against Bees

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School boys' basketball team down by nearly 20 points in the first half came back to nearly win Tuesday at Bridgman 56-53.

The Bison (4-5) took the lead in the fourth quarter but the Bees after fouled in the final seconds claimed victory by sinking each of their two free throws.

New Buffalo Head Coach Nate Tripp described the level of play from his team in the first half as "dismal" especially on defense.

"We dug ourselves a pretty big hole," he said.

At halftime, Tripp said he made some adjustments that included more defensive pressure on ball handlers and the team responded by outscoring the Bees by nine points in the third quarter.

At one point, the Bison led by three points early in the final period but the Bees after a few more lead exchanges held on.

Tripp said his team after taking the lead had some opportunities to go ahead by even more points but didn't take advantage.

"We had some stops and had a chance to expand on that lead. We just didn't capitalize," he said.

Trevor James led the Bison with 20 points.

Lucas Forker and Sam Tripp each scored 10 points.

Bridgman improved to 8-3.

The Bison began the season with high hopes after nearly winning the District 4 tournament last year and returning almost every key player.

Tripp said he's planning to have a serious meeting with his players to try and determine why the team isn't quite performing up to expectations.

So far, the Bison have played mostly good teams but Tripp believes the losses have more to do with his players beating themselves by not executing.

"We have kids that are expected to win. We have kids that really want to win. Right now, they're being their hardest opponent," he said.

The way the Bison performed in their comeback attempt against the Bees is how Tripp wants to his team playing more consistently.

"Even though we haven't played our best basketball, we still took an 8-3 Bridgman team and put them right on the ropes. We just couldn't deliver that knockout blow," he said.

Three Oaks/River Valley 2026 royalty crowned

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Since she was little, Johnna Rochefort has been told to "dream big."

"That's what I plan to do as an architectural engineer – my big dream is to encourage the youth of females that we can do any job a man can do," she said, adding that only 20 percent of females go into architectural engineering.

Before she can see that far-off dream come true, Johnna is reveling in fulfilling a current one: Being crowned 2026 Miss Three Oaks/River Valley in the River Valley High School Auditorium during the Las Vegas-themed pageant Saturday, Jan. 10.

"I felt that crown go on my heard and I thought, 'Oh my gosh I just did that, I won' - all the time and effort and everything I put into this, it paid off finally," Johnna said.

Johnna was also crowned Miss Congeniality, which was chosen by the other contestants.

A 16-year-old junior at River Valley High School, Johnna is the daughter of Amy and Erik Rochefort.

She volunteers at Apple Cider Century and Hesston Steam Museum and trick or treats for the hungry. In school, she participates in volleyball and softball, marching, jazz, pep, concert and honor jazz band, Interact Club and Drama Club.

Johnna said she's mostly looking forward to spending time with the other girls on the court and her best friend, 2026 Mr. Three Oaks/River Valley Clayton Burk.

As a child, she sat on the Miss Jr. Teen court.

Miss Three Oaks/River Valley First Runner-up is Addyson Frazier.

The daughter of Emily and Chris Frazier, Addyson is a junior at River Valley High School.

Someday, she'd like to be a registered nurse in the oncology unit. She enjoys helping with the Apple Cider Century, Toys for Tots and Chikaming Township Fire Department. At school she's in marching and concert bands, cheerleading and National Honor Society.

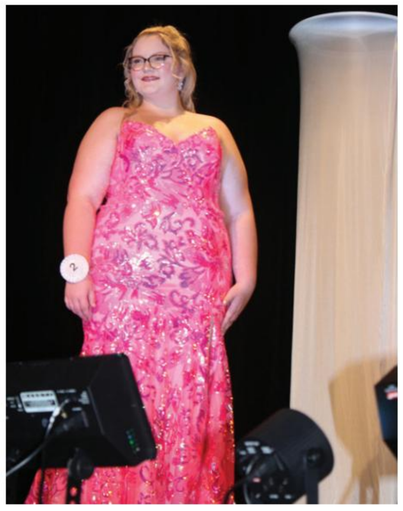
Second runner-up is 17-year-old Abigail Lumley, the daughter of Holly and Jason Lumley. She participates in sports such as softball, is a basketball cheerleader, theater, Student Congress and marching band. Someday, she'd like to be a child psychologist and work in the CPS and foster care systems.

Third runner-up is Peyton Swain, the daughter of Michelle and Keith Swain and a 16-year-old junior at River Valley. She's involved in sports such as track, cross country and basketball and marching band and is part of the firefighter program. She'd like to become a sheriff's deputy.

Ava Ledesma is escorted onstage by dad Santiago

Abigail Lumley performs her commercial onstage

Miss Three Oaks and River Valley 2025 Ava Ledesma takes her final walk



Addyson Frazier

Johnna Rochefort performs her commercial

Co-Little Misses Faith Geuther and Charlie Mitchell are crowned

Johnna Rochefort

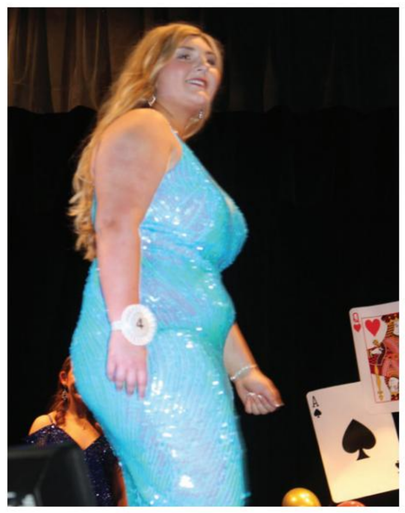
Peyton Swain performs her commercial

Ryder Frazier answers a question from Sarah Spoonholz

Addyson Frazier is crowned first runner-up to Miss Three Oaks and River Valley

Clayton Burk is crowned Mr. Three Oaks and River Valley

Clayton Burk performs his commercial



Peyton Swain

The 2026 Miss and Mr. Court poses after the pageant

Addyson Frazier performs her commercial

Johnna Rochefort is crowned Miss Three Oaks and River Valley

Contestants strike a pose after the opening number

Crowned Mr. Three Oaks/River Valley was Clayton Burk.

A 17-year-old junior at River Valley High School, Clayton is the son of Cassy and Joe Burk. He wants to become a robotics engineer and create robots "to help facilitate people in their everyday life."

At school, he's involved in Interact Club, Student Congress, concert and marching band, theater and robotics. He volunteers at Hesston Steam Museum, Woodland Shores Baptist Church and American Legion Post 204 Christmas parties.

"I love being a part of the community and this is going to be a great way to do that," he said.

Serving as co-Little Miss Three Oaks/River Valley are Faith Geuther and Charlie Mitchell.

A 7-year-old second grader, Faith is the daughter of Ashely and Nicholas Geuther.

She enjoys art, gym and reading, as well as cheerleading, Girl Scouts and being a Berrien County Youth Fair exhibitor. Someday, she hopes to be an astronaut.

Her sister, Ashley, was crowned Little Miss Stevensville.

A 6-year-old at River Valley Elementary School, Charlie is the daughter of Brittany Carlson and DeAndre Mitchell.

Her favorite subject is gym, and she wants to be a Starbucks barista.

"I think she likes dressing up being sassy and having kids to play with," Carlson said.

Crowned Little Mr. Three Oaks/River Valley was Ryder Frazier.

A first grader at River Valley, Ryder is the son of Emily and Chris Frazier.

His favorite subject is gym, and he enjoys playing video games and building Legos.

Ryder said he looks forward to being on the court with his sister, Addyson.

Little Miss/Mr. Top ad seller was Faith Geuther. Top seller for Miss/Mr. and overall winner of business ads was Johnna Rochefort. Clayton Burk was the winner of the $250 Legacy Scholarship and $200 Derek Freehling Scholarship.

There were $200 scholarships in memory of Laurel Ann Veneklasen awarded Peyton Swain, who received two, and Abigail Lumley. Peyton and Abigail were also awarded an additional $100 scholarship.

Emcees were 2024 Miss Three Oaks/River Valley Mya Thomas and Sarah Spoonholz, membership director for the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber.

Miss/Mr. judges were Jennfier Fiero and Cathy Waggoner and Lydia Dubuisson. Little Miss/Mr. judges were Jenna Schmidt and Aniya Warman.

New Buffalo Royal Court is crowned

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Having been crowned Miss Teen New Buffalo 2024 and Little Miss New Buffalo 2017, Angelina Bryk is familiar with sitting on a royal court.

Nonetheless, she was still "so surprised" when she was crowned Miss New Buffalo 2026 at the New Buffalo Performing Arts Center during the "A Night in Dublin, Ireland"-themed pageant Saturday, Jan. 10.

"I literally am speechless - I have no words," she said.

A 17-year-old senior at New Buffalo High School, Angelina Bryk is involved in school musicals, basketball, cheer, Drama Club and Peer to Peer. Honors include Excellent Performance in a musical, MVP Basketball and Progressive Honor Roll. Someday, she'd like to be a professional singer and a nurse.

As Miss New Buffalo, she'd like to "mentor younger children, support our seniors, and encourage people to support local businesses and programs that help our town grow. I would also enjoy being part of volunteer projects that help take care of our shared spaces."

Crowned first and second runners-up were Harper Bowman and Madison Grzywacz.

A 17-year-old junior at New Buffalo, Harper is class president in student senate, an all-state track athlete, and all conference cross country runner. She's involved in cross country, track, basketball, student senate, SADD Club, yearbook editor, National Honors Society, and Spanish National Honors Society.

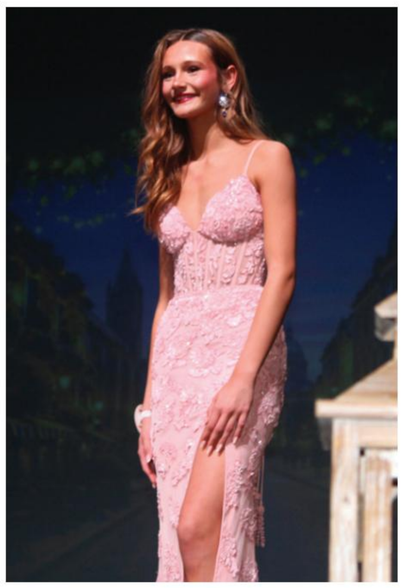
A 17-year-old senior at La Lumiere College Preparatory School, Madison has been on the honor roll, participated in leadership programs at her school, and received recognition for involvement in extracurricular activities. She's involved in a national basketball cheerleading team, varsity soccer, and several school leadership and community activities. In college, she'll study something related to social sciences or early childhood education.

A 16-year-old junior at New Buffalo, Lydia Denham was crowned Miss Congeniality and Miss Entrepreneur. She's won awards in track and field and other sports awards and medals. Activities include volleyball, soccer, track and field and wrestling, and she plans to attend Western Michigan.

Gabriella Bergquist graces the stage

Miss New Buffalo 2025 Ellen Ripley is escorted onstage by her dad Brian

Alexandra Bowen graces the stage



Lydia Denham

Miss New Buffalo 2025 Ellen Ripley bids farewell

Miss New Buffalo 2025 crowns Miss New Buffalo 2026 Angelina Bryk

Aurora Inman is crowned Little Miss New Buffalo

Harper Bowman is crowned first runner-up to Miss New Buffalo

Shawna Yech is crowned Miss Teen New Buffalo

Kaidon Hollis is crowned Little Mr. New Buffalo

Contestants perform in the opening number

The 2026 New Buffalo Royal Court poses after the pageant

Crowned Miss Teen New Buffalo was Shawna Yech, a 12-year-old seventh grader at New Buffalo Middle School.

She said she would like to have the "superpower" to "breathe under water because 99 percent of the deep sea has not been explored." Someday, she'd like to be a 911 Dispatcher "because I would like to make the world a safer place."

"This is the first time I've won 'Miss,' it's so life changing for me," she said.

Crowned Miss Teen First Runner Up and Miss Congeniality and Second Runner-up were Emily Beck and Gabriella Bergquist, respectively.

A 15-year-old ninth grader at New Buffalo High School, Emily would like to have the power "to see something and be able to do it right away without having to learn it - because one of the things I struggle with is being patient with myself." Someday, she'd like to be a lawyer.

A 14-year-old ninth grader at New Buffalo, Gabriella would like to be able "to heal so I could help the sick and injured." She wants to be a pediatrician "because I love to help people, enjoy spending time with little kids."

Miss Jr. Teen is Lexi Willey, a 9-year-old fourth grader at New Buffalo Elementary School. She said she'd love to be able to "pause time" and wants to be a clothing designer.

Lexie said it's her first pageant; however, she has a friend who's done 10 of them.

"She can explain everything to me," she said.

Miss Jr. Teen First Runner Up and Second Runner-up were Alexandra Bowen and Blake Troxell, respectively.

A 9-year-old third grader at New Buffalo, Alexandra's chosen superpower is teleportation, and she'd like to be a nurse. An 8-and-half-year-old third grader at New Buffalo, Blake would also like to teleport "from place to place" and wants to be paleontologist and a professional fisher woman.

Also sitting on the court are Miss Congeniality Frankie Biggs, a 9-year-old fourth grader at New Buffalo and Zoey O'Connell

Crowned Mr. Jr. Teen was Maisen Calderon, a 12-year-old sixth grader at New Buffalo Middle School.

He said he'd like to read animals' minds because "we could do so many things in the world, if we could read the minds of animals." He'd like to own a construction business, specifically, to build homes.

"I'm just looking forward to making new friends and having fun," he said.

Mr. Jr. Teen First Runner Up is Anthony Monaldi, an 11-year-old sixth grader at New Buffalo Middle School, who would like to have the superpower to fly and wants to be a realtor.

Mr. Jr. Teen Second Runner Up is Braydon Hollis, an 11-year-old sixth grader at New Buffalo Middle School. His superpower would be "to make people happy" and he wants to be a police officer.

Also on the court is Mr. Jr. Teen Mr. Nice Guy Quinn O'Connell, a 10-year-old fifth grader at New Buffalo Elementary School.

Crowned Little Mr. New Buffalo was Kaidon Hollis. An 8-year-old second grader at New Buffalo, Kaidon would like the power to "help those in need" and wants to be a police officer.

Crowned Little Miss New Buffalo was Aurora Inman, a 6-year-old kindergartener at New Buffalo Elementary School. Her chosen superpower would be to "turn everything into gold!" Someday, she wants to be a baker.

"We get to go on floats and we get to wave," she said of the pageant experience.

Little Miss First Runner Up was Addilynn Salyer, a 6-year-old first grader at New Buffalo, who would like the superpower to "be really fast" and wants to be doctor.

Second Runner Up is Reagan Gould, a 7-year-old second grader at New Buffalo, who would like to have "telekinesis- the power to move things with my mind." Someday, she wants to be a mechanic.

Also sitting on the Little Miss Court is Little Miss Sweetheart Addisen Sukich, a 7-year-old second grader at New Buffalo.

Miss judges were Shane Blair, Maria Moen and Pam Kublick.

The Little Miss/Mr., Miss/Mr. Jr. Teen and Miss Teen were Tiffany Dowling, Sarah Ruff and Hannah Grosse.

Emceeing the pageant was Timothy Taylor.

Angelina Bryk

Madison Grzywacz

Emily Beck poses onstage

Lexi Willey is crowned Miss Jr. Teen

Maisen Calderon is crowned Mr. Jr. Teen

Brayden Hollis poses onstage

Anthony Monaldi is crowned Mr. Jr. Teen First Runner-up

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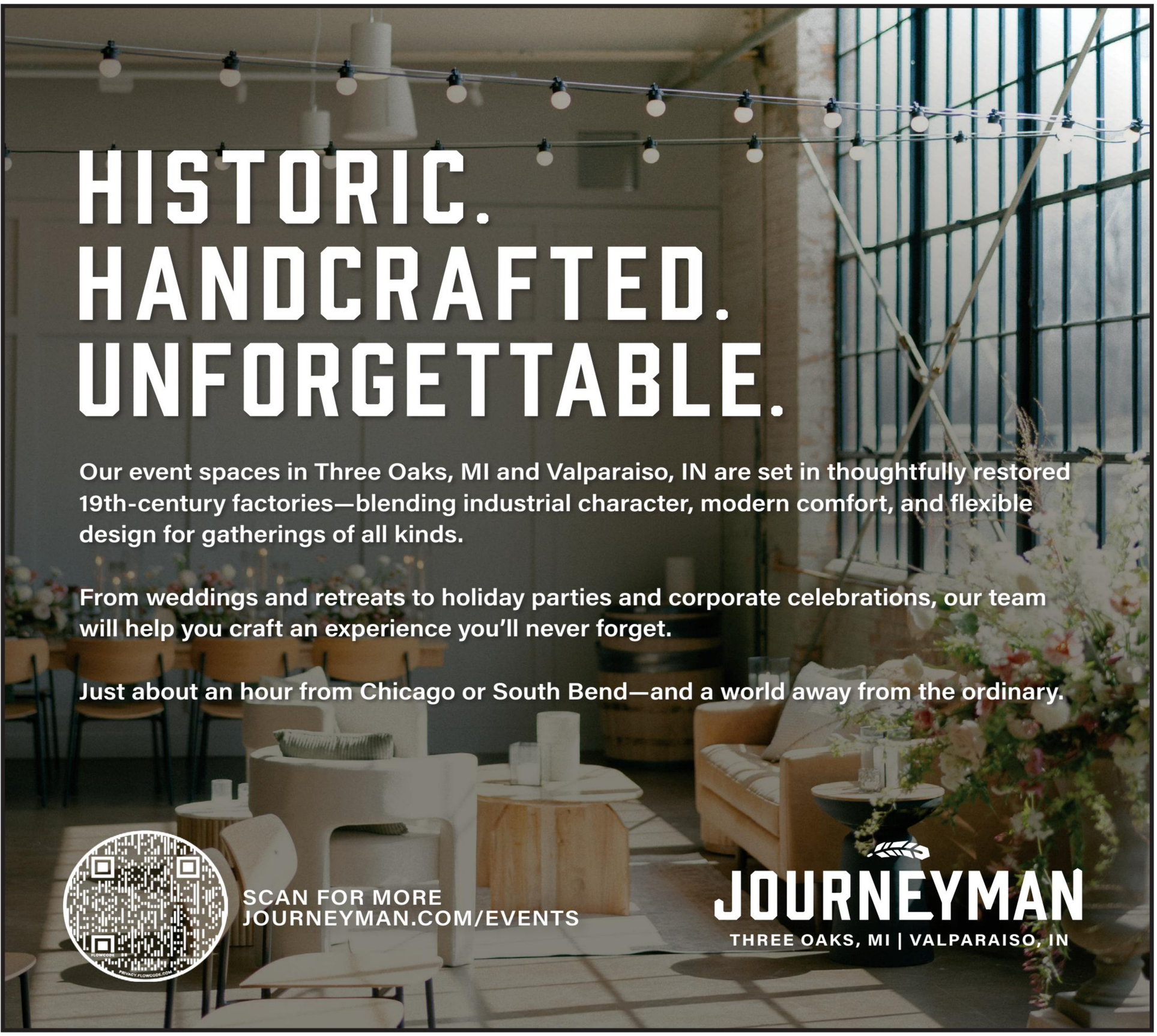
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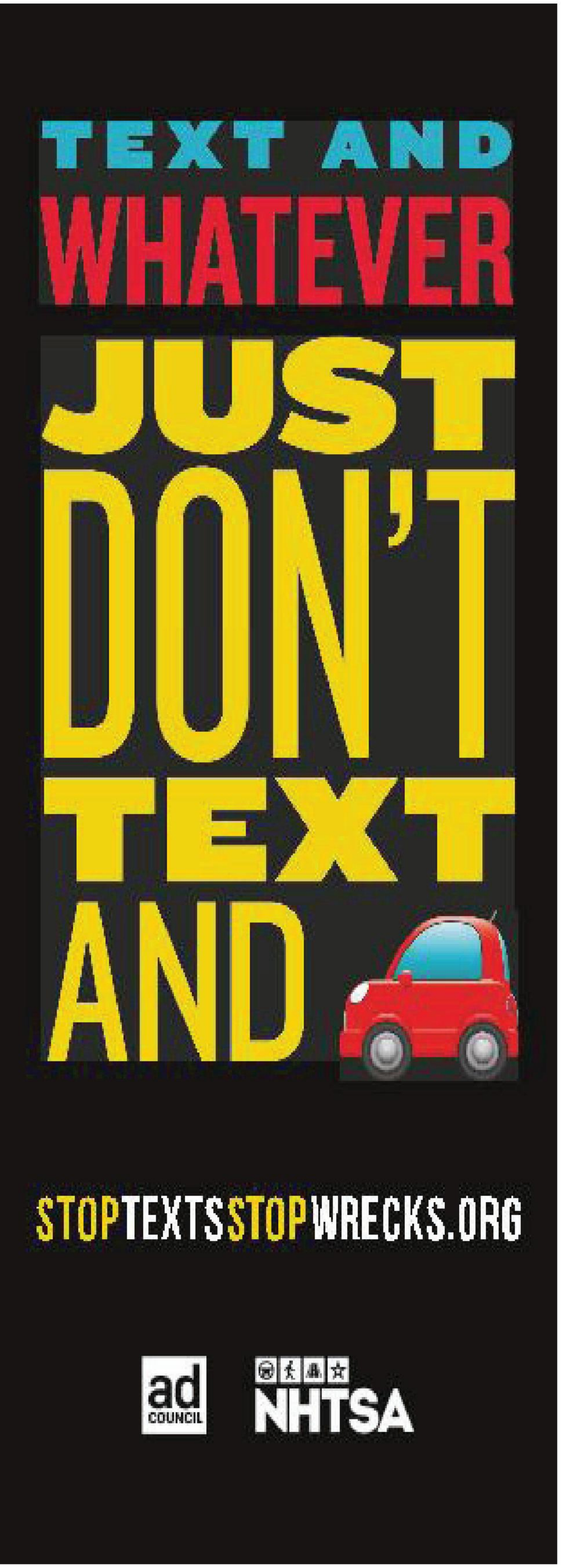


OBITUARIES

James Joseph McDevitt (Jim)
1028-2025

James Joseph McDevitt (Jim), 97, passed away peacefully on Tuesday December 30, 2025 at The Elms at Michigan City, IN. He will be remembered by those who were lucky enough to know him as a man of faith, with strong family values and an incredibly kind heart.

Jim was born on March 21, 1928 in Detroit, MI, to the late James and Mildred (Wines) McDevitt. On July 28, 1962 in Roseville, MI, he married the love of his life, Barbara Helen Clark who preceded him in death on May 1, 2023.

Jim was a veteran of the U.S Army Air Force and worked in real estate, spent time bartending and in sales in the automotive industry first with Nylok and then retiring from Commercial Steel Treating in 1990. He enjoyed traveling – especially he and Barbara's annual road trips to Florida in the winter and a memorable trip to Greece – golfing with friends and family and listening to Elvis Presley. He spent time as a proud member of the St. Ronald's Men's Club and was an avid Michigan Wolverine fan. But most of all, he loved his family and spending time with them, especially for holidays and special occasions, which he and Barbara hosted at their beloved home for decades.

Jim is survived by six children, Sherri (Ted) Kerhoulas, James Carter, Gary Wensink, Mark Wensink, Karyn (Ron) Rogers, and Donna (Tom) Ramsden; ten grandchildren Amy (Paul) Reed, Ronna Jurda, Shannon (Matt) McCune, Eddie Slanec, Dustin (Tammy) Slanec, Dane (Tiffany) Ramsden, Ryan Ramsden, Tori Ramsden, Siobhan Carter and Jaimee (Vishal) Shah; twelve great grandchildren; and 3 great-great grandchildren. Jim was also preceded in death by his three siblings, brother John McDevitt and his sisters the Honorable Judge Mary McDevitt and Mildred Wonsch.

A private family committal service will be held at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Roseville, MI and a Mass of Christian Burial will be held in springtime at St. Ronald's Catholic Church in Clinton Township, MI.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Harbor Country Museum of History & Rail or to your favorite charitable organization in Jim's memory.

Charles Lee "Pete" Wheeler Sr.
1961-2026

Charles Lee "Pete" Wheeler Sr., 64, of Three Oaks died Friday January 9, 2026, in the comfort of his home.

His life began April 3, 1961 in Wilkinson County, Georgia, the youngest of seven children born to Willie Wheeler and Mamie Shivers.

Pete was an extremely hard worker. He owned a snow/landscaping business. He was dedicated and committed to his family and close friends. Pete always had multiple jobs. Some would call him the "jack of all trades". Early on, he was hands on. If it needed to be done, you could count on him. He was a PRANKSTER all of his life. He worked as a school bus driver for well over 40 years. He was caring and loved talking to family/friends on the phone. He also loved having company. He loved to fish! He was determined and strong-willed. Last but not least, he was a ladies man being how handsome he was.

Pete will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his children, Charles Wheeler Jr., Senora Wheeler, Demaris Wheeler, Jamar Wheeler, Dimagio Wheeler, Travis Wheeler, Eric and Derrick Wheeler, Tyisha Wheeler, Elijah Wheeler, and Myisha Wheeler fourteen grandchildren, four siblings, Mamie Wasp, Odessa Wheeler, and Bob Wheeler, Catherine Wheeler, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mother and step-father Kurt, one son, Jonas Wheeler, and two nephew's Thomas and Tan-tan Wheeler.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at www.wagnercares.com.

HOROSCOPE

JANUARY 15-21, 2026

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

You will have a keen eye for seeing what is valuable and worth pursuing this week. Make purchases. Secure a more stable footing in life by pushing forward with career goals. Even if it seems like no is paying attention or recognizing your abilities now, there will be offers coming in

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

You will attract the strange and delightful this week. Whether it is actual people or unique experiences that connect you with your personal power, you have to go with it. Trust that the unusual happenings that are occurring now are an omen and an opportunity to prepare for what you will need to do in June.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Embrace the idea that diversity equals more resources this week. This is the time to uncover the hidden elements of situations that have been a source of mystery or friction and bring those principles to light. Aim for harmony and cooperation and you will be successful, otherwise chaotic situations will continue.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

There will be a lot of opportunities to network and connect with people this week. It's time to get out of the house and socialize. You can expect many delightful encounters and unusual conversations. Pay attention to the subtle signs and hints of what opportunities may present themselves in the future.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

There will be a tendency to compare yourself to others or take on their responsibilities this week. Pay attention to what you need to accomplish and what work really needs to be done by someone else. Be there to help but don't do it for them. Trust your gut instincts to know what you are obligated to do.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Be bold this week and pursue your creative goals and relationship opportunities with courage and confidence. The possibilities are endless now and the stellar energy is there for you to utilize and succeed. When in doubt take time to evaluate your inner strengths and give yourself your own pep talk. You can do it.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

This is the time to diversify and bring different elements into your home and business. There will be many different tools and information coming to light this week that will be able to help you organize your space and harmonize with your family. It just might be a little quirky or outside your comfort zone.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

The energy coming your way this week will highlight community experiences and bring you opportunities to communicate with the more unusual types of people in your neighborhood. This is the time to get to know how people feel in your community and how to harmonize with them for the greater good.

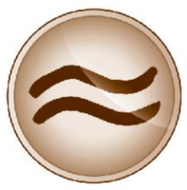
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

The green light is on for planting the seeds for future prosperity. This is the time to plan and prepare your garden, organize and prioritize chores and clean up your work space. Do the prep work that is necessary to secure good outcomes. Trust your instincts and prepare for any problems you think are possible, now.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Advocate for yourself and network with people this week to secure more resources and opportunities in the future. The connections you make now or the information that you gather now will prove valuable in June. This is the time to converse with people you would normally shy away from.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



There is a lot of cosmic energy coming your way this week that is centering on your dream time and more supernatural realms. Utilize this energy to it's fullest by opening your heart and mind to things that present themselves to you Look for omens and events that foretell or give causation to what is coming and prepare.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

The universe is giving you the greenlight this week to network and connect with the people around you. This is a great time to come together for common goals and to create a more harmonious environment. Don't shy away from public speaking or the opportunity to express yourself because you will be inspiring.

The best cure for the body is a quiet mind.
— Napoleon Bonaparte

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

			9		8			4
9		8				1		
6	4	2	1		7		8	
		4					1	
			7		2			6
4	7	6	3		1		9	8
		1					3	
	3	9			4	7		

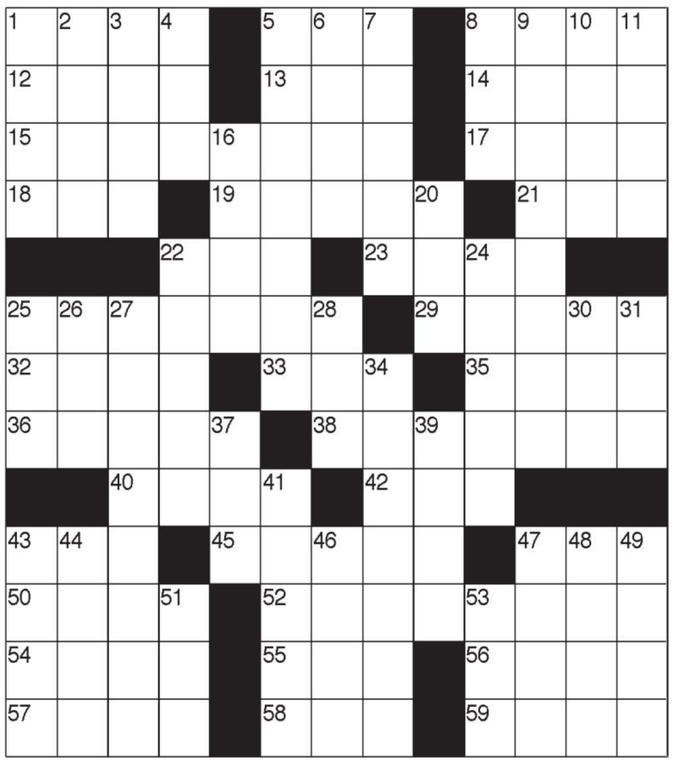
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Border
5 System (abbr.)
8 Nail with a hole
12 Geological vein angle
13 Buddhist column
14 Kemo ____
15 Renegade
17 Isle of Napoleon
18 To or from a distance (pref.)
19 Fishing leader
21 Disfigure
22 Isle
23 Assuage
25 Travel
29 Eight
32 Fraction of a rupee
33 Benedictine title
35 Hindu soul
36 Monsieurs (abbr.)
38 Giant
40 Peacock blue
42 Child's seat
43 Palestine Liberation Organ. (abbr.)
45 Ruby spinel
47 Greek letter
50 Joining bar
52 Horned viper
54 Noble (Ger.)
55 Portuguese coin
56 Cure
57 Conrad's "Victory" heroine
58 Age
59 Mother of Brunhilde

DOWN

1 Minstrel of India
2 Sexual assault
3 Heathen god
4 Fr. pronoun
5 Oblique
6 Eucalyptus tree
7 Milestone
8 Compass direction
9 Sabal
10 Eastern bishop's title
11 Endearment
16 Chin. dynasty
20 Indo-Chin. language
22 Military macaw
24 Rogue
25 Stoppage
26 Switch positions
27 Tacit
28 ___ Kippur
30 Danish county
31 Burmese knife
34 Chills and fever
37 Weep
39 Cornmeal
41 Mother-of-pearl
43 Pelvis (pref.)
44 Mineral deposit
46 Ogle
47 Wing (pref.)
48 Nob
49 Key
51 Guido's note (2 words)
53 Haggard novel



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for

PUBLIC NOTICES are an effective way for agencies of government to make official announcements.

State law requires these notices be printed in newspapers.

Nearly two-thirds of active Michigan voters* would be concerned if government placed these notices on websites because important information could be concealed from the public.

* EPIC-MRA 2011

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION
This newspaper supports your right to know.

A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

The Mysterious Man Named Mert

It had been about a month since the move to DIC's Encino studio offices and everyone was settled in. I didn't know about the Accounting or the Artists' Wing, but the Writers' Wing was a blast. We got a lot of work done on the various series and development we were involved with, but there was plenty of time for pranks and hijinks.

Lori's office was in a different corridor, so she wasn't exposed to our antics. 'Antics', I came to learn, were a good thing, giving writers a chance to blow off steam.

We had a great group in the Writers' Wing: myself, Howard Cohen, Lisa Maliani – Lisa and I never broached the matter of my script on the floppy being lost – Bobby Logan and Mert Rich, a newbie we quickly came to embrace. Mert was one of the funniest people I ever knew. He was naturally funny – by which I mean funny-without-trying-to-be-funny. Years earlier, he wrote for the legendary Second City series, SCTV.

Aside from writing brief joke dialog for DIC's new and very popular series, Hulk Hogan's Rock 'n' Wrestling, no one could figure out what Mert did at DIC. He sure wasn't writing full episodes of the series. That task fells to DIC's star writer, Jeffrey Scott, credited with developing the series. When the dust would settle at the end Hulk Hogan's Rock 'n' Wrestling's two-season run, Jeffrey will have written 22 of its 26 episodes. I liked and admired that. It would give me something to shoot for.

Mert liked to hang out with Lisa in the Writer's Wing. I think part of the reason was he knew, like him, she wasn't all that experienced in animation, so they had common ground. That, and she was smart and had the potential to become a good writer. Writing talent aside, I always felt one Mert's best qualities was his penchant for creative pranking. At DIC his main target was Bobby Logan. Even with Bobby's great sense of humor, he was a straight arrow, and his exasperated responses to Mert's practical jokes made the pranks all the funnier.

Bobby was big into computers in those early days of home computers, and he delighted in 'educating' the rest of us. When he'd discover a shortcut to save three or four keystrokes, he'd proudly stride up and down the Writer's Wing corridor announcing it like a prospector who had discovered a gold nugget.

Bobby was a hard worker, but he also liked to play hard. That's why he loved the softball league. Along with Mike Stokey, his batting average was in the .900s! And, also along with Stoke, his fielding was phenomenal.

With the season over, Bobby switched to video games. His favorite revolved around basketball. Once Bobby became proficient at the game, he'd try to enlist anyone who walked near our office into a match. His biggest competitor was Stoke. Stoke was a welcome visitor to the Writer's Wing, liked by everyone there. It didn't hurt that he was an amazing ballplayer and it didn't hurt that he had a great, if dry, sense of humor. He found Bobby particularly amusing because the writer was at the opposite end of Stoke's personality. While a funny guy, Bobby was reactive, emotional and tightly wired, his buttons easily punched...and, like Mert, Stoke liked to punch buttons.

And that was why they simply could not resist pranking him, as you'll see...

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

HOW DO WE GET TO CHRONIC & DEGENERATIVE DISEASE

I have many people asking me how to turn health issues around using natural approaches. Good health is a job that you have to work on daily, making informed choices. It is not just what you take, but what you get ridof. There are only two ways to degenerative disease.Toxicity and deficiency. Most people in our Country haveboth, until you choose changes for better health.

No serious disease starts out chronic; it starts out as acute illness that has been suppressed. Over time we continue to suppress again and again. Our immune system cannot fight through, which leads to chronic illness. If we continue to suppress, and continue putting what is causing illness into our bodies, (Rx to suppress symptoms, processed foods that cause mucous and congestion) and not detoxing and giving our bodies the correct nutrition, then eventually chronic illness leads to degenerative disease.

Acute illnesses are fever, cough, cold, aches, pains, headache, flu etc. They are the best friends of human beings. These are alarms to tell you that you have toxins accumulated in your body which need to be cleared out immediately. At this point, to heal, we have to listen to these symptoms and immediately go into rest mode. Stopputting the offenders into our bodies that caused toxicity.Let the cleansing happen. If we detox at this stage, we would save a lot of vital energy and life force to clear this acute mucous and congestion out. The time spent on recovery would not be too much, usually a few days. Give your body the rest from processed foods or any influence that will jeopardize your health further. Taking care of your health now is vital if you don't want to progress into a chronic state.

What most people do in acute state of illness, is take pills and medications thinking they are saving themselves time and not disrupting their daily routines. A pill for every ill. This suppresses the infection or illness into deeper organs in the body that you will have to deal with on a deeper level later. Plus, you are now also dealing with the toxins of the RX that has embedded into your cells. This is why when people have secondary illnesses after antibiotic treatment, you get sicker each time, or the sickness lasts longer and is worse than the original.

There are no shortcuts to health. To heal, we need to go through the process of detoxing and purging these poisons sooner or later. It is better to go through it naturally early on, than serious disease later by ignoring it.

Your body has its limits. Keep on ignoring the signals and you are now in a degenerative state of health. Arthritis, allergies, obesity, cancer, failure of organs.

My teachings are always to nip any illness quickly and naturally by putting life giving foods into our bodies that nourish, cleanse and rebuild.

Good health begins today. Don't put it off to deteriorate into degenerative disease.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK

ABBY

Her ideal home would be with someone who has experience with herding dogs as well as sensitive, fearful dogs. A slow pace when getting to know others is the perfect way to set her up for success. A calm, introverted home environment is just what Abby is looking for. Abby is between three and eight years old, weighs between 25 and 60 pounds, is spayed, and her vaccinations are up-to-date. With the right amount of treats and patience, she'll be your best friend. She knows how to sit, come, stay, lay down, speak and shake with her right paw and left paw. Make Abby part of your home today.

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New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

7	1	3	9	5	8	6	2	4
9	5	8	2	4	6	1	7	3
6	4	2	1	3	7	9	8	5
3	6	4	8	9	5	2	1	7
1	2	7	4	6	3	8	5	9
8	9	5	7	1	2	3	4	6
4	7	6	3	2	1	5	9	8
5	8	1	6	7	9	4	3	2
2	3	9	5	8	4	7	6	1

B	R	I	M	■	S	Y	S	■	S	P	A	D
H	A	D	E	■	L	A	T	■	S	A	B	E
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T	E	L	■	S	N	E	L	L	■	M	A	R
■	■	■	A	I	T	■	E	A	S	E	■	■
J	O	U	R	N	E	Y	■	O	C	T	A	D
A	N	N	A	■	D	O	M	■	A	T	M	A
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■	■	P	A	O	N	■	L	A	P	■	■	■
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